

## Appendix E Joshua Tree Survey Report

## Appendix

*This page intentionally left blank.*



**JOSHUA TREE SURVEY REPORT  
FOR  
APNs 414-212-08 and 414-212-09**

**CITY OF HESPERIA  
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY,  
CALIFORNIA**

**Prepared By:**  
Hernandez Environmental Services  
17037 Lakeshore Drive  
Lake Elsinore, California 92530  
(909) 772-9009

**Prepared for:**  
Jorge Estrada  
Placeworks  
3 MacArthur Place, Suite 1100  
Santa Ana, CA 92707

**FEBRUARY 2022**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	i
1.0 Introduction .....	1
1.1 Purpose .....	1
1.2 Project Location .....	1
1.3 Project Description .....	2
2.0 Methodology .....	2
3.0 Results .....	2
4.0 Recommendations .....	2
5.0 References.....	5

## FIGURES

- Figure 1 – Vicinity Map
- Figure 2 – Location Map
- Figure 3 – Project Plans
- Figure 4 – Joshua Tree Location Map

## 1.0 Introduction

Pursuant to the City of Hesperia Municipal Code chapter 16.24, Protected Plants, all species of the *Agavaceae* family (*Yuccas*, *Nolinas*, *Century Plants*.), all species of cactus, including chollas (*Cylindropuntia* spp.), smoketree (*Dalea spinosa*), all species of the mesquites (*Prosopis*), creosote rings 10 feet or more in diameter, all Joshua trees, and all plants protected or regulated by the California Desert Native Plants Act (California Food and Agricultural Code 80001 *et. seq.*) shall not be removed except under a removal permit issued by the agricultural commissioner. Prior to ground disturbance, a protected Desert Native Plant Survey needs to be prepared.

“Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2074.2 of the Fish and Game Code, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), at its September 22, 2020 meeting, accepted for consideration the petition submitted to list the western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. Pursuant to subdivision (e)(2) of Section 2074.2 of the Fish and Game Code, the Commission determined that the amount of information contained in the petition, when considered in light of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) written evaluation report, the comments received, and the remainder of the administrative record, would lead a reasonable person to conclude there is a substantial possibility the requested listing could occur. Based on that finding and the acceptance of the petition, the Commission is also providing notice that the western Joshua tree is a candidate species as defined by Section 2068 of the Fish and Game Code.”

Hernandez Environmental Services (HES) was retained by Pathways to College to perform a Joshua Tree Survey on the 21.5 acres of Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 414-212-08 and 414-212-09 and within 186 feet of the project boundary in Hesperia, San Bernardino County, California.

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to identify and locate all Joshua trees on the project site and within 186 feet of the project boundary, take measurements, descriptions and determine the number of trees that will be directly and indirectly impacted by project activities.

### 1.2 Project Location

The proposed Project site is located on the east side of the Interstate 15, west of Hesperia Road, south of Mojave Street, and directly east of Third Avenue, in the City of Hesperia, San Bernardino County, California (Figures 1 and 2). Specifically, the project site is located within

Section 16, Township 4 North, Range 4 West, San Bernardino Base Meridian (SBBM), on the *Hesperia* United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles. The Project site center point latitude and longitude are 34°26'05.2014" North and 117°18'02.7994" West.

### 1.3 Project Description

The proposed project consists of the construction of a new campus for Pathways to College Charter School. The proposed campus will consist of a 21,400 square foot (SF) main building, 130 parking spaces, a playground, and recreational areas. Outside of the project boundary, roadside improvements and a proposed water and sewer line will be developed, impacting Third Avenue and Mojave Street (Figure 3). Approximately 12.97 total acres are expected to be impacted by development.

### 2.0 Methodology

HES conducted a survey and evaluation of on-site native desert plants on October 27, 2021. A separate survey and evaluation were conducted on January 13, 2022, of Joshua trees that reside within 186 feet of the project site. The entire project site was traversed on foot. Protected native desert plant locations were mapped using a sub-meter Geographical Positioning System (GPS). Tree height was taken with a measuring rod and diameter at breast height was obtained using a measuring tape.

### 3.0 Results

A total of 16 Joshua trees were identified within the project impact boundary and will be directly impacted by development. A total of 19 Joshua trees were surveyed within 186 feet of the project impact boundary and will be indirectly impacted. Joshua tree locations are displayed in Figure 4.

Covered Species within Project Site	
Height of Covered Species	Number of Covered Species
Less than 2 feet	0
2 – 8 feet	15
Greater than 8 feet	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

<b>Covered Species within 186 ft Buffer Area</b>	
<b>Height of Covered Species</b>	<b>Number of Covered Species</b>
Less than 2 feet	1
2 – 8 feet	9
Greater than 8 feet	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

Based upon the findings of this report, it is recommended that the following measures be implemented as part of the project to avoid, minimize, or compensate for the anticipated impacts from project activities:

- Prior to the initiation of Joshua tree removal, obtain California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit No. 2081.
- Obtain mitigation land within Joshua tree Conservation Bank to permanently protect a population of Joshua tree or acquire Habitat Management Lands to mitigate the loss of the trees and establish land for permanent protection and management of Joshua tree habitat.
- The permittee shall purchase land at a CDFW-approved mitigation or conservation bank or shall provide for the permanent protection and management of Habitat Management lands.
- Before starting project activities, the permittee shall designate a representative responsible for communications with CDFW and overseeing compliance with the ITP.
- Name, qualifications, business address, and contact information of a biological monitor (designated botanist) shall be submitted to CDFW at least 30 days prior to project activities. The designated botanist shall be responsible for monitoring project activities to help minimize and fully mitigate or avoid incidental take of Joshua trees.
- An education program (Worker Environmental Awareness Program-WEAP) shall be conducted for all persons employed or working in the project area before performing any work.
- A trash abatement program shall be in place before starting project activities and throughout the duration of the project to ensure that trash and food are contained in animal proof containers.
- The boundaries of the project site shall be clearly delineated, in consultation with the designated botanist, prior to project activities with posted signs, posting stakes, flags, and/or rope or cord.
- Project-related personnel shall access the project area using existing routes, or routes

identified in the project description, and shall not cross Joshua tree habitat outside or on route to the project area.


- The designated botanist shall have authority to immediately stop any activity that does not comply with the ITP, and/or to order any reasonable measure to avoid unauthorized take of an individual Joshua tree.



## Certification

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above, the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: February 22, 2022

Signed:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Juan J. Hernandez  
Principal Biologist

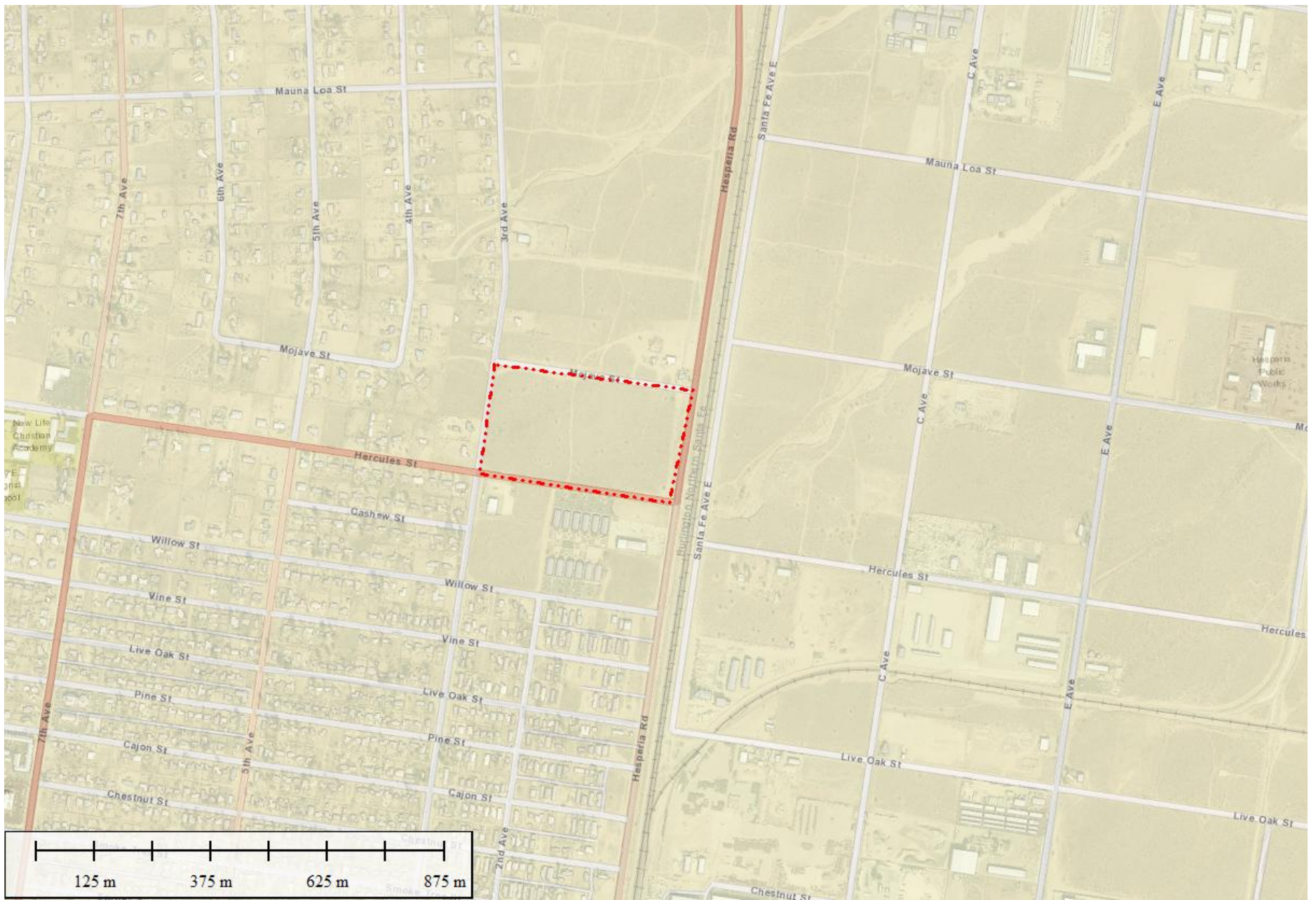
## 6.0 References

American Legal Publishing Corporation. (2021). *Chapter 88.01: Plant Protection and Management*. American Legal Publishing Corporation. Retrieved January 4, 2022.

City Council of the City of Hesperia. (2021). *Hesperia Municipal Code chapter 16.24 Article II - Desert Native Plant Protection*. Municode Library. Retrieved January 4, 2022.

Monterey Convention of 1849. (2021). *DIVISION 23. CALIFORNIA DESERT NATIVE PLANTS [80001 - 80201]*. California Constitution. Retrieved January 4, 2022.

# FIGURES

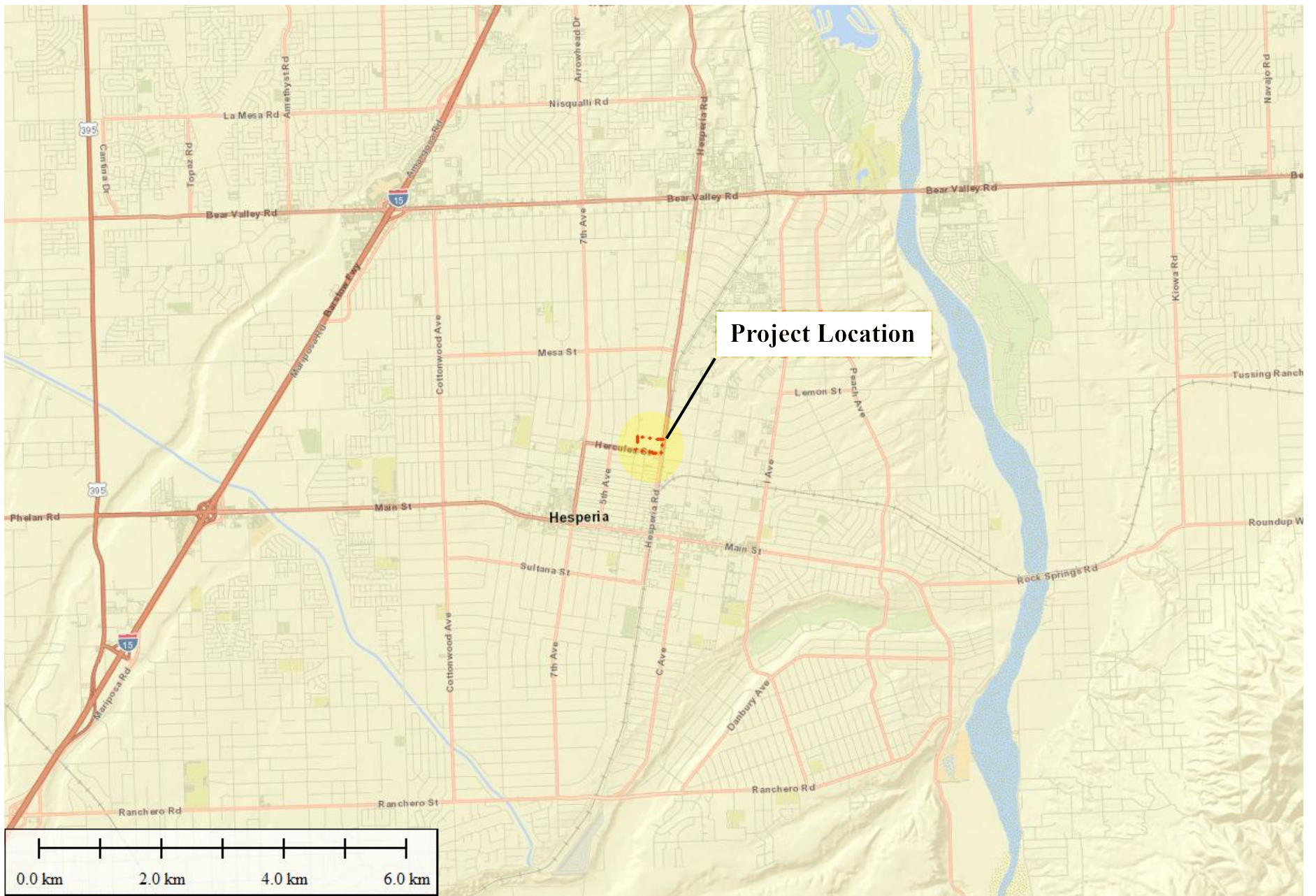


**Figure 1**  
 Location Map  
 Pathways to College  
 San Bernardino County, California

**Legend**

 Project Site Boundary  
 E-10





**Figure 2**

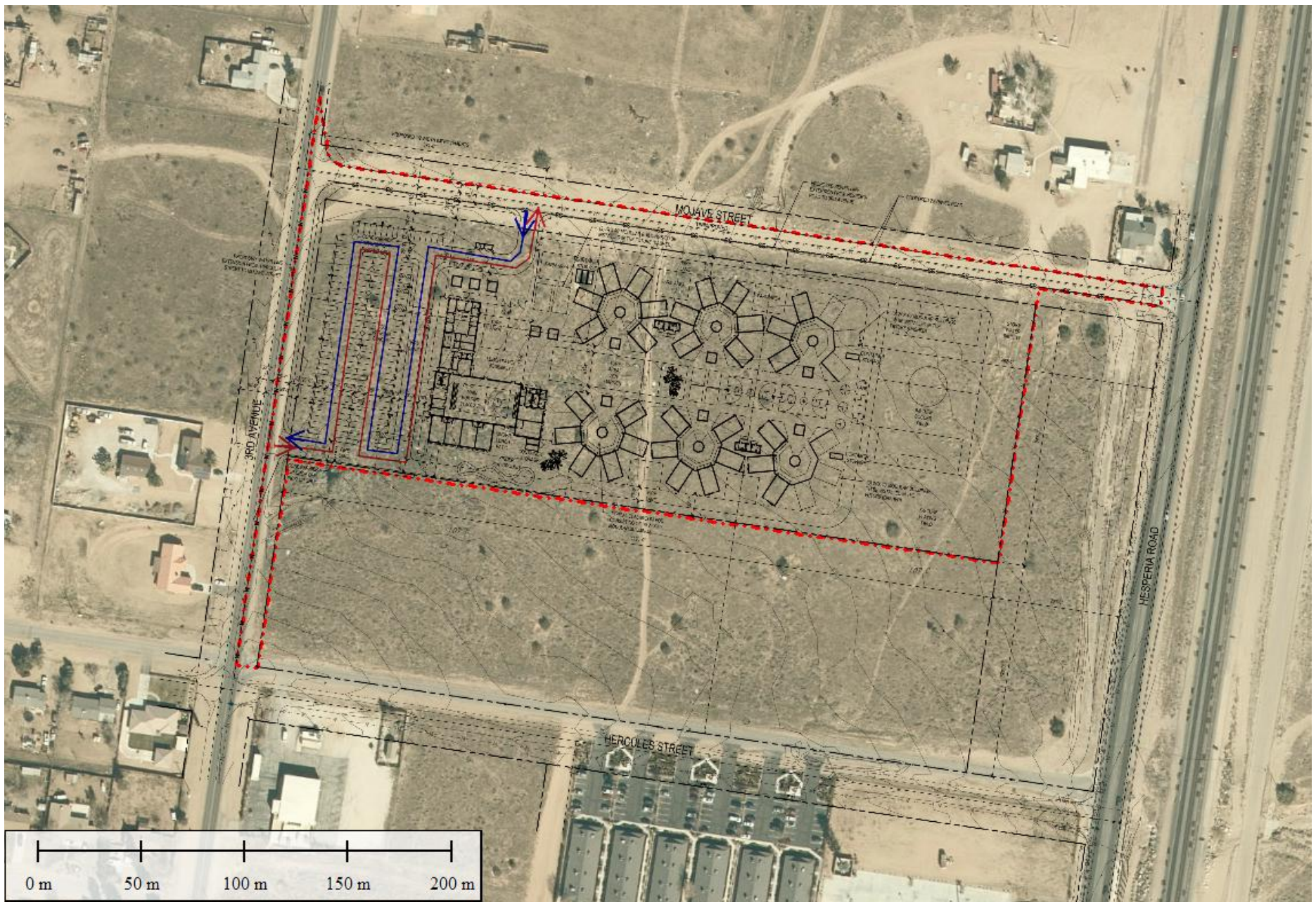
Vicinity Map  
 Pathways to College  
 San Bernardino County, California

**Legend**




Project Site Boundary  
 E-11



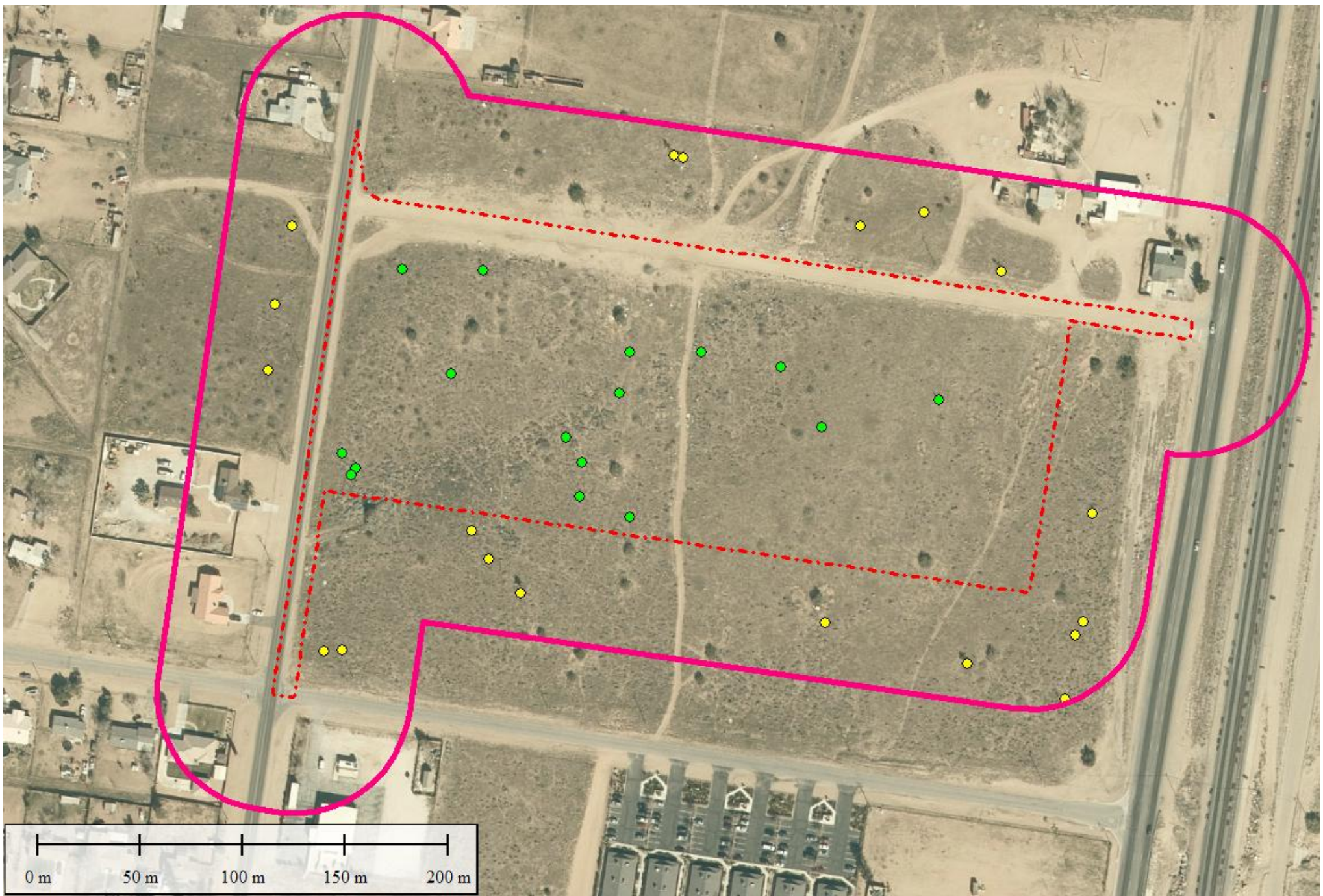


**Figure 3**  
 Project Plans  
 Pathways to College  
 San Bernardino County, California

**Legend**

 Project Impact Area Boundary  
 E-12





**Figure 4**  
 Joshua Tree Location Map  
 APNs 414-212-08 & 09  
 San Bernardino County, California

- Legend**
- Project Site Boundary
  - 186 ft Buffer
  - Joshua Trees on site (16 trees)
  - E-13 Joshua Trees off site (19 trees)

